

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-19 and 21-28 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 10, 18, and 26 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 18, 19 and 26 have been amended. Claims 3, 12 and 20 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in the Amendment dated December 21, 2005.

Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-19 and 21-28 would still be pending. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections:

Claims 2, 11 and 19 have been objected to because of minor informalities. These claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 26 have also been objected to because of minor informalities. Claim 26 has been amended to recite ". . . , the medium comprising:" as suggested by the Examiner. Concerning the proposed change "~~and~~ which", the Applicant has slightly modified the Examiner's proposed changes and amended claims 10 and 26 to reflect both words "and which" to clarify that the components that follow are part of the image reading apparatus and not the external apparatus. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claim 1, 2, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by European Publication No. 0862313 to Takahashi et al. Claims 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi as applied to claims 1, 10 and 18, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,280,162 to Marwin. The Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 10, 18 and 26, as amended, are directed to arrangements in which the image reading apparatus is set in a sleep state, in response to detection of any abnormality of the interface (for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to the external apparatus) during an image reading process controlled by said external apparatus, until the communication with the external apparatus restarts.

As best understood, the Examiner now alleges that the sleep state is taught on col. 19, lines 31-33 of Takahashi, which states:

When the remaining capacity of the battery becomes small in the battery driving mode, power supply to the display can be cut off to attain power savings.

However, as described in the above-noted portion of Takahashi, the power supply is cut off when the remaining capacity of the battery becomes small, not when the printer is disconnected from the image sensing device. That is, the cutting off of power is dependent on the capacity level of the battery, and not on any abnormality of the interface. As such, Takahashi is silent as to setting the image reading apparatus in a sleep state, in response to detection of any abnormality of the interface (for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to the external apparatus), as claimed. Accordingly, at least for this reason, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 and their

dependent claims are not anticipated by Takahashi and are distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
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